

# ★ YOUNG EUROPEANS: ★ LEARN ABOUT YOUR EUROPE

★ REDUCED ROAMING CHARGES



★ OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT



★ IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE



★ HEALTH COVER



★ SAFER FOOD



★ GENDER EQUALITY



★ DEMOCRACY & UNDERSTANDING



★ LIVE, WORK & STUDY IN MEMBER STATES



## #EUROPEYOUTH

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*This education pack was produced by members of Foróige, the National Youth Development Organisation with the support of the European Commission Representation in Ireland.*



## BENEFITS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

There are so many benefits for young European citizens provided by the EU, from education and training to volunteering and employment. This education pack offers a snapshot of the opportunities EU membership offers young Europeans.

## THE EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE (EVS)

### *What is EVS?*

The European Voluntary Service gives young people (aged 17-30) the opportunity to volunteer abroad in another European country for 2-12 months in a safe environment.

As a volunteer you would have the opportunity to work in a wide variety of fields such as culture, youth, sports, cultural heritage, arts, animal welfare, environment and development cooperation. You also get the chance to spend time in another country and learn about the culture. At the end of your EVS period, you will receive a certificate confirming your participation and describing your project – the Youthpass. All EVS sending and hosting organisations are registered and checked and are accredited to run projects under the EVS Scheme.

Your accommodation, food and insurance costs will be covered and you will receive a small contribution towards your living costs. The only thing you might have to pay is a small part of your travel costs. To find out more about EVS, log onto [www.leargas.ie](http://www.leargas.ie) To learn more about Youthpass log onto [www.youthpass.eu](http://www.youthpass.eu)

## THE YOUTH GUARANTEE

### *What is the Youth Guarantee?*

It is a new approach to tackling youth unemployment. The youth guarantee should ensure that young people (aged 18 to 24) are offered a job, work experience, apprenticeship, training, or combined work and training within 4 months of leaving school or becoming unemployed. The aim of the youth guarantee is to support you and give you the chance to get a good job. To find out more about the Youth Guarantee, log onto [www.ec.europa.eu/social/youthguarantee](http://www.ec.europa.eu/social/youthguarantee)

## EUROPASS

### *What is Europass?*

Europass is an online CV which aims to help you make your skills and qualifications clearly and easily understood in Europe - whether you are enrolling in an education or training programme, looking for a job, or getting experience abroad. This makes moving around Europe much easier. For more on Europass log onto [www.europass.ie](http://www.europass.ie)

## EURES (EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT SERVICES)

### *What is EURES?*

The EURES website connects jobseekers and employers across Europe. As a jobseeker you can search for opportunities across Europe, upload your CV, contact an adviser, and also get advice about living and working conditions in other European countries. It helps the mobility of workers across the European Union.

Much like Europass, EURES makes it easier for you to get a job in another European country. Whether you are looking for a job, or are an employer seeking workers you can upload your CV or add a job advertisement. To find out more about EURES, log onto [www.ec.europa.eu/eures](http://www.ec.europa.eu/eures)





### What is Erasmus+?

Erasmus+ aims to boost skills and employability for young people across Europe. It opens the doors to experience abroad for college students, vocational students, for apprentices and for teachers and trainers. Erasmus+ also provides opportunities for volunteers and youth groups to take part in international exchanges. For the first time, partnerships in sport will receive support from Erasmus.

Another exciting part of Erasmus+ is the Masters degree loans initiative. This gives you the opportunity to apply for support for your Masters studies in another European country included under Erasmus+. If you have been accepted for a full Masters study programme you can apply for a loan to contribute to your costs of up to €12,000 for a one-year Masters course and up to €18,000 for a two-year Masters course

To find out more about the amazing opportunities to learn, live and work in other European countries, log onto [www.ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus](http://www.ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus)

### HEALTH CARE IN THE EU

The European Health Insurance Card or EHIC, which was formerly known as the E111 card, allows you to access health care services when in another EU country or Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

The EHIC entitles you to necessary health care in the public system in any of these countries if you become ill or injured while in Europe on a temporary stay in that country. Your card will be valid for up to 4 years. If you are going on holiday, a short break or are heading off to study abroad, **DON'T FORGET** to apply for your card in time

and bring it with you. It will help save you time and money if you fall ill or suffer an injury while abroad. It is a FREE public service as getting the card costs nothing! To apply for your EHIC card, visit [www.ehic.ie](http://www.ehic.ie)

### FOOD & THE EU

Did you know that all Irish and European food products (and imported products) have to meet certain criteria and have labels displaying nutrition, origin and grade?

Food law, both at national and EU level, establishes your right to safe food, and honest and accurate information. In the European Union, rules are put in place on the labelling of food to help you get comprehensive information on the contents and the composition (what food is made of) of food products. Labelling helps you as an EU citizen to make an informed choice when purchasing food. Traceability allows you to know where the food originated from.

As EU citizens and consumers, we are lucky that we have access to high quality food and are able to find out about suppliers and countries of origin.

To learn more about how the EU affects the food we eat, log onto [www.ec.europa.eu/food](http://www.ec.europa.eu/food)

### GENDER EQUALITY & THE EU

Gender Equality means that men and women should receive equal treatment. Equality between women and men is one of the European Union's founding values. The European Union's achievements in raising equality between women and men have helped to change the lives of many European citizens for the better.



The European Commission is currently working to ensure equal pay for equal work of equal value, to ensure that both women and men have the opportunity to be employed full time, and to ensure a better representation of women and men in leadership positions in business and politics.

The European Commission is actively encouraging females to study Science and Technology subjects at school and college so there can be equal numbers of men and women employed in ICT, engineering and science related jobs. Both men and women are benefitting from the EU's work on gender equality. As an EU citizen you can expect equal treatment and equal opportunity when it comes to education and employment. Find out more about the EU and gender equality at [www.ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality](http://www.ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality)

## ICT IN THE EU

The EU plays a big role in how you use Information and Communications Technology (ICT). For example, it is EU policy that roaming charges from within the EU's member states can't go above 20 cent per minute as of July 2014, which is great news for all mobile phone users! You will also receive a text when you reach the country about the roaming charges for that area. The legislation to abolish roaming charges altogether within the EU by the end of 2015 is almost complete. To find out more about your rights when roaming, log onto [www.ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/roaming](http://www.ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/roaming)

## ONLINE CONSUMER RIGHTS & THE EU

Mobile phones and roaming charges aren't the only parts of ICT the EU has helped to develop. The EU has also put in place rules to protect EU citizens while shopping online. For example, if you order a product online it has to be on its way to you within 30 days otherwise you can expect a full refund. If you can't be given a refund for whatever reasons you are entitled to get a product of equal value. The rules do not apply to some products such as food and drink, or accommodation and leisure services i.e. concert tickets or hotel bookings.

The European Consumer Centre can help you with any complaints you have regarding your rights when shopping in another EU country. Log onto [www.eccireland.ie](http://www.eccireland.ie)

## TRANSPORT IN THE EU

EU funds have helped greatly in the improvement of many Irish roads. Such improvements to the road network benefit the Irish economy including industry and tourism, and make it easier for you to get around. Not only roads have been supported by the EU, but also rail and air transport.

EU legislation means that passengers are protected in cases of delays or cancellations whether travelling by rail, bus or plane. You are entitled to alternative transport or a refund, depending on the conditions. For more information about your rights go to [www.ec.europa.eu/transport/passenger-rights/en](http://www.ec.europa.eu/transport/passenger-rights/en)





## MOBILITY IN THE EU

Mobility (moving around) within the EU is extremely easy with these improvements in transport. As an EU citizen you have the fundamental right to free movement within the EU. To travel from country to country within the border-free Schengen Area,\* no border checks are required.

EU nationals have the right to move to another EU country to look for a job without a permit. You are also allowed to reside (live) in that country when your employment is over and you should expect to have equal benefits to other residents of that European country.

\* The Schengen Agreement in 1995 led to the creation of the border free Schengen Area.

The Schengen Area includes 26 European countries that have abolished border control between their common borders, often referred to as internal borders.

## SOLIDARITY AND PEACE IN THE EU

The primary concern of the EU when it was first formed was to ensure that war could never again take over Europe. The values of the EU include the securing of a lasting peace, unity, equality, freedom, security and solidarity.

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the EU in 2012 in recognition of the EU's commitment to democracy and peace.

Thanks to peace, democracy and unity in the EU, you have the opportunity to travel abroad, pursue different careers and enjoy the cultural diversity of the EU.

The EU also plays its part outside the EU and makes important contributions to peace, international development and humanitarian assistance. The EU is the largest humanitarian aid donor in the world.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### European Commission (EC)

*The executive body of the European Union responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the Union's treaties and day-to-day running of the EU.*

### European Council

*An institution of the European Union that is made up of the heads of state or government of each EU member state. It is charged with defining the general political directions and priorities of the Union.*

### Council of the European Union

*The Council of the EU is the institution representing the member states' governments. Also informally known as the EU Council, it is where national ministers from each EU country meet to adopt laws and coordinate policies.*

### European Parliament

*Directly elected parliamentary institution of the European Union - made up of MEPs (Members of European Parliament). Together with the Council, the Parliament adopts or amends proposals and is a co-legislator.*

### European Union (EU)

*Economic and political union of 28 countries in Europe*

### MEP

*Member of the European Parliament elected by the citizens of each member state of the EU*

### Recommendation

*Non-binding guidance issued by EU institutions, which makes their views known without having any legal consequences.*

### Directive

*A Directive is a type of EU law that sets out certain end results that must be achieved by Member States by a particular date. It is up to the Member States how they implement the Directives.*

### Regulation

*Regulations are the most direct form of EU law and have binding legal force throughout each Member State as soon as they are passed.*



## SAMPLE WORKSHOP YOU CAN USE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EU

### Introduction

This workshop enables participants to explore how the European Union affects their everyday lives. Participants will discuss what they currently know about the European Union and compare this to information gained throughout the workshop. The workshop will allow participants to focus on a number of key areas of European Citizenship and how it affects young people. Participants will be encouraged to find out more information on an area(s) of their choice.

### Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- State what they currently know about the European Union
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of how the European Union affects their every day ives
- Describe the benefits of being a European Citizen
- Know where to find out further information on the European Union

**Time:** 1 hour 30 minutes Optional Activity-45 minutes  
Approx 8-15 participants

### Materials:

- Flip Chart, markers, laptop, projector (or other equipment to show videos)

### Activity 1 Method

- Introduce the workshop, outlining the topics that will be explored and the aims of the session as outlined in the introduction
- Split group in smaller groups of 4 or 5 participants and ask them

the following question - What do you already know about the European Union? Ensure each group has a flip chart and markers to record their answers.

- After 5 minutes bring the group back together and ask each group to present their answers.
- Allow each group time to share their answers.
- Once everyone has finished, explain to the group that they are now going to look at a video presentation by the European Commission. (View the video by logging onto the European Commission Representation Ireland Youtube Channel [www.youtube.com/euireland](http://www.youtube.com/euireland))
- Once video has been played asked each group to revisit their answer to the question and ask them to change or add anything based on the information they were given in the video
- Ask each group to present any changes they have made

### Activity 2 Method

- In the large group, ask participants "Does the European Union affect your life on a daily basis? How does it affect your life?" Write answers on a flipchart
- Explain to participants that they are now going to watch a short video developed by a group of young people to show how they felt the European Union affects young people's lives in a practical, every day way. Show participants "Day in the Life of Young European" video. (View the video by logging onto the -Foróige Youtube channel [www.youtube.com/foroigechannel](http://www.youtube.com/foroigechannel))
- Ask participants what they thought of the video. Was anything surprising? Did they know the EU had that much effect on their daily lives? Are there other ways that were not mentioned in the video?
- Give out education pack to all participants and ask them to read it. Split group into smaller groups of 4 or 5 and ask participants to discuss with each other what they have learned about how the EU affects their everyday lives. Record answers on flipcharts.
- After 5 minutes ask groups to come back together and give feedback on what they have discussed
- Highlight to participants where they can find out more information on any aspects discussed during the workshop (refer to education pack resources section)



- Alternatively ask participants to pick one topic they would like to learn more about. This can be done individually or in groups. Give participants time to research the topic online or with materials provided (your local Europe Direct Information Centre can provide you with information leaflet and booklets).
- Ask participants to give feedback on what they have learned to the larger group

### Optional Activity- 45 minutes

The EU Has Disappeared:

#### Method

- Give participants the following instructions on a piece of paper *"This morning every citizen woke up to find the news that the European Union is no longer in existence. The EU has disappeared. All institutions of the EU, policies, laws, funding and administration no longer affect European Union countries."*
- Think about how your life might be different from this day? How would your family or friends lives be different? What would be missing? Would life be worse or better for EU citizens?
- Split the large group into smaller groups of 4 or 5. Ask them to discuss the information they have been given. Explain that they have to give feedback on what they have discussed in a creative way eg draw a picture, perform a role play, write a newspaper report/press release/magazine article, perform a live news report from the day (eg reporter interviewing people about the news).
- Allow each group time to give feedback
- Once all groups have finished, bring the large group together and ask "What have you learned from doing that activity?"

# THE EUROPEAN UNION



Member States of the European Union (2013)  
Candidate and potential candidate countries



# YOUNG EUROPEANS LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR EUROPE!

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